

Reincarnation or Rebirth

Scientific Research and Evidence



An Article by
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After numerous scientific studies on reincarnation or rebirth conducted by distinguished experts and meticulous scientists in the 19th and 20th centuries, reincarnation (or the survival of a person after death) has compelling scientific evidence, and it is often far more extensive and impressive than many people realize.

Scientists and sceptics love evidence, and these studies provide scientific and irrefutable evidence on this subject. One can examine the evidence with an open mind and, after careful consideration, reach one's own conclusions.

This article provides an outline of these topics with a general presentation of relevant books that can be ordered online. It also provides links to websites and video documentaries.

It is a fact that the truly wonderful thing in life is that there are so many possibilities and so many things one can learn.

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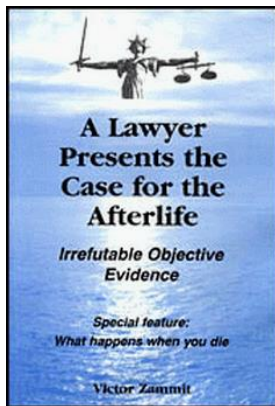
Reincarnation (Rebirth, Metempsychosis)

The concept of reincarnation has existed since ancient times in many parts of the world. However, frequent discussion on the subject appears around the 6th century BC in the philosophical traditions of India and Greece, where in India it is referred to as *saṃsāra* (migration or wandering in the cycle of death and birth) and *puna-bhava* (rebirth, re-existence), while in ancient Greece as metempsychosis, palingenesis or metempsychosis. Indeed, famous Greek philosophers, such as Pythagoras and Plato, claimed to remember their previous lives.

EVIDENCE FOR REINCARNATION

The extensive research and rigorous investigations on reincarnation carried out by thorough scientists and even conscientious lawyers have yielded such substantial evidence that former lawyer Victor J. Zammit, now an author and researcher in empirical evidence for the afterlife, has offered one million dollars to any sceptic who can disprove it.

Victor J. Zammit is a retired lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia and has published the book:



A Lawyer Presents the Case for the Afterlife **Irrefutable Objective Evidence** Victor J. Zammit

This book is particularly recommended to those scientists who are concerned with whether the human mind can be explained by a 'skull full of brain cells' or if there is a better explanation. Victor J. Zammit's website is www.victorzammit.com, and presents all areas of research.

Generally, the systematic scientific effort for evidence of reincarnation has developed in approximately 24 areas of research, of which, for brevity, only seven main areas will be mentioned here as an introduction:

1. Conscious memories of previous life in children
2. Corresponding birthmarks from previous life in children
3. Xenoglossy
4. Child Prodigies
5. Verifiable memories of previous life in adults
6. Demographic studies, and
7. Investigation of mediums

1. *Conscious Memories of Previous Life in Children*

The strongest and best-documented evidence for reincarnation comes from the research of Dr. Ian Stevenson, a psychiatrist at the University of Virginia (USA) with impeccable credibility, who, from the late '50s, began to scientifically study cases of conscious memories of previous life in children.

Dr. Stevenson, who passed away in 2007, was one of the greatest psycho-empiricists¹ in human history, who radically changed the perception of reincarnation and life after death. The evidence he provided in abundance came from essentially using the methods of a detective, or an investigative journalist, a historian, a lawyer and a psychiatrist to evaluate claims that a young child, often just beginning to speak a few words, had started speaking spontaneously about the details of another life.

Thus, he collected from many countries approximately 3,000 cases of children—most of them between two, four and ten years old—who could remember having lived previous lives, complete with names, dates or even the villages or cities where they had previously lived. Many children were able to immediately recognise members of their former family and could often cite nicknames and complex details of their previous lives with chilling accuracy.

Moreover, many of the children that Dr. Stevenson studied could even recount how they had died in their previous life, providing details of their death with a degree of certainty and knowledge inexplicable for a child.

What is most impressive about these memories is that these children had not been hypnotised or 'regressed' to recall previous lives, but had presented conscious memories of previous lives spontaneously from a very young age.

While ordinary children are, of course, capable of having fantasies as well, what impressed Dr. Stevenson was the wealth of personal and intimate details those children could recount with confidence—details, he thought, that were unlikely for a child to either imagine or have learned from an adult.

Ordinary children—even after constant practice—cannot retain in their memory anything like the enormous volume of information those children often provided. Nor were those children's stories consistent with the type of imaginary stories for which ordinary children are famous.

Even more impressive than the quantity of details those children could provide was the fact that a large portion of this quantity proved verifiable. Names often proved to be accurate. They correctly remembered former spouses, siblings, parents, even children they had raised in their previous life, and could describe the house they had lived in with remarkable accuracy, although they had never been there during their present life.

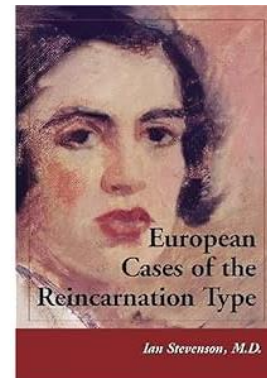
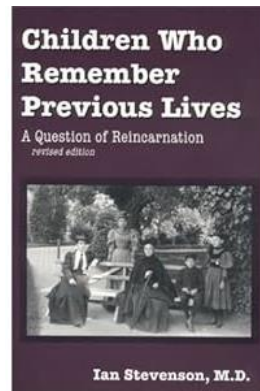
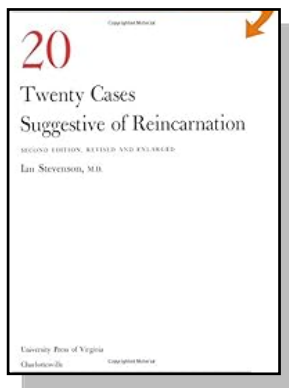
In some cases, those children identified so strongly with their previous life that they insisted on being called by their previous name. Indeed, they felt alienated from their current family, preferring (and, in some cases, becoming visibly upset when not allowed) to spend more time with their previous family.



Dr. Ian Stevenson

¹ A psycho-empiricist is one who applies observation and experiment, rather than theory, to determine a psychic phenomenon.

Dr. Stevenson was a Canadian biochemist, professor of psychiatry, and head of the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia (USA), which he founded. He was also the author of many books, including:



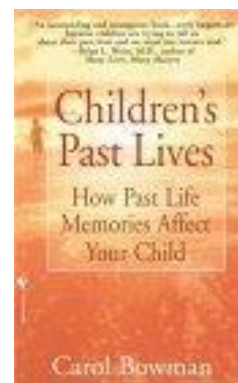
His scientific research on reincarnation impressed many scientists. Carl Sagan, the popular American astronomer and renowned sceptic, wrote a book in 1995 called *The Demon-Haunted World* in which he was extremely critical of many paranormal ideas. However, regarding reincarnation, he stated that this research must be taken seriously. As he wrote: ‘There are claims [in the field of parapsychology] that, in my opinion, deserve serious study. ... Young children sometimes report details of a previous life, which upon checking turn out to be accurate and which they could not have known about in any other way than reincarnation.’

OTHER DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS

Dr. Stevenson’s research encouraged many scientists and researchers to seriously investigate previous life memories in children. Among these, the globally distinguished and leading experts in this field are:

Carol Bowman (USA), holder of a Master’s Degree in Counselling Psychology from Villanova University, who is also a Lecturer at various Universities and author of many books, including *Children’s Past Lives*. This book has now become a classic work in the field of reincarnation and has been published and read in 16 languages.

Carol is recognised worldwide as a pioneering new voice in reincarnation studies in America. She has been praised for opening the eyes of millions of parents to the fact that some children easily remember their past lives. She is frequently invited for television and radio broadcasts.



A scientific journal of American psychiatrists concluded: ‘Bowman’s arguments and evidence are, if nothing else, fascinating’.²

For Carol, reincarnation is not an abstract religious or philosophical idea, but a natural phenomenon. Sceptics, as well as the curious, are welcome to visit her website:

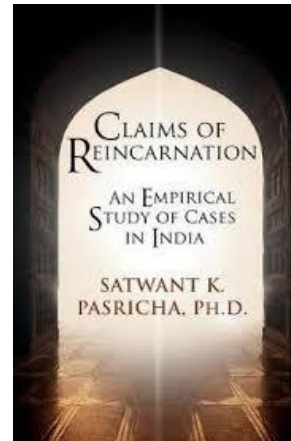
<http://www.childpastlives.org/>

² *Psychiatric Services*, October 1998, Vol. 49, No. 10.

Satwant Pasricha (India) is head of the Department of Clinical Psychology at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences at the University of Bangalore. She is a leading national authority on reincarnations, using rigorous scientific methods to investigate reincarnation claims. For over two decades she has investigated more than 500 cases of reincarnation, 75% of which proved to be genuine³. She is also the author of many scientific books, two of which are:

Can the Mind Survive Beyond Death?
In Pursuit of Scientific Evidence,
Volume I, II: Reincarnation Research

Claims of Reincarnation:
An Empirical Study of Cases in India



Dr. Jim B. Tucker (USA) is a child psychiatrist, director of the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia and successor to Stevenson's work. He conducts research on children's reports of remembering previous lives worldwide, focusing on the United States.



Jim B. Tucker, M.D.

He himself was a sceptic and disbeliever. He had never taken the idea of reincarnation seriously until he encountered Dr. Stevenson's work. After reading Dr. Stevenson's work on near-death experiences, he became quite fascinated and began conducting extensive research himself.

Dr. Tucker's work focuses primarily on young children's reports about their previous lives. Their memories are often recollections of old experiences, as children show not only detailed knowledge about what they claim to be their previous lives, but often express intense and lasting emotions connected to these past memories.

Children as young as two and three years old have broken down in their homes, claiming that their current parents are not their real parents or real family, and have asked to be taken to their true families. Often, children insist on being taken to villages or cities far from their current homes, frequently to places they had never visited before. Once there, they are able to identify landmarks and lead their current family members and researchers to the residence of their 'past personality'.

These children repeatedly demonstrate the ability to provide amazing details about their previous lives, mentioning names or nicknames, recognising members of their past family,

³ The remaining 25% are those cases where sceptics try to find loopholes and excuses to disagree about reincarnation, thus overlooking the 75% of proven cases.

residential locations, occupations and other incredible details. They also exhibit strong personalities from their previous lives, behaving like fathers towards adults who are decades older than the children, and showing care and affection towards their supposed previous spouses.

Even the manner of death of their previous personalities appears in their memories. Many children have phobias related to the death of their past personalities. Those whose past personalities match with individuals who drowned, for instance, demonstrate an intense fear of water.

Dr. Tucker has published his research in various books, of which a very well-known one is:

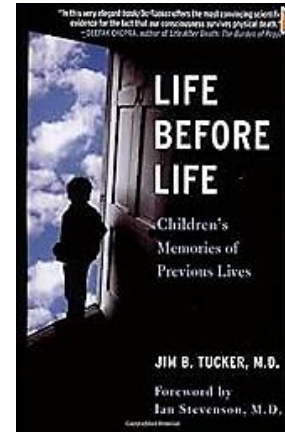
Life Before Life

Children's Memories of Previous Lives

Based on over 2,500 investigations into previous lives, this very elegant book by Dr. Tucker offers the most convincing scientific evidence for the fact that the mind survives physical death.

The book has been translated into ten languages. It presents cases of children in a straightforward manner, and explores the possibility that the mind can continue after the death of the brain. It is a provocative and fascinating book that can challenge and ultimately change readers' understanding of life and death.

It challenges the view that the mind is merely the result of brain function. It suggests that the mind can be examined separately from the brain, which provides a basis for the claims of reincarnation. The book also discusses apparent objections to reincarnation.



Tom Shroder is an American journalist who was very sceptical about reincarnation. He is the author of many books and was responsible for the popular Washington Post Magazine of the Washington Post newspaper for many years. Indeed, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Literature in 2008. As a keen journalist, he followed Dr. Stevenson on some of his final journeys for critical research.



Tom Shroder

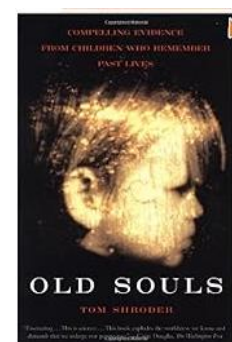
Initially, Shroder saw his role not only as an observer but also as a sceptic. However, as his journey with Dr. Stevenson progressed, Shroder found it increasingly difficult to dismiss the possibility of previous lives.

He soon came face to face with specific evidence that, no matter how hard he tried, he could not ignore. He describes his research in the popular book he published with the title:

Old Souls

Compelling Evidence from Children Who Remember Past Lives

This is a book that will captivate both sceptics and supporters of reincarnation, as Shroder reveals amazing, indescribable contemporary stories of thousands of young children who speak about remembering their previous lives, and information about people who died before they were born—people whom they claim they were in a past life. The journalistic objectivity that Shroder presents in his research makes this book an exceptionally

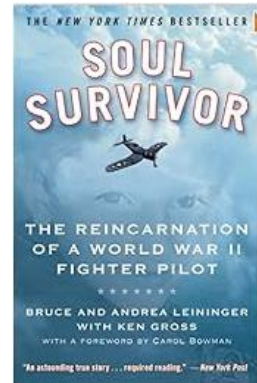


valuable treatment of a subject that is often overlooked and maligned. Justifiably, his book attracted particular interest from the media.

PRIVATE RESEARCH

Apart from the scientists and researchers who were encouraged by Dr. Stevenson's research, there are many other well-documented private investigations such as, for example, the following research by the educated parents of a child, published with the title:

Soul Survivor
The Reincarnation
of a World War II Fighter Pilot
New York Times bestseller

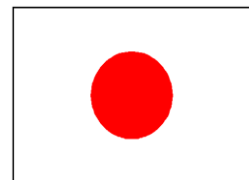


This book, which has now become a bestseller across America, describes the case of James Leininger (USA) and constitutes a spectacular example of the phenomenon of young children remembering previous lives. It is the most well-documented case of reincarnation in America. A young child who can recall over 50 memories from another person's life. His case, which has become renowned in America and other parts of the world, is briefly as follows:

From a very young age, James would play with nothing but aeroplanes. At the age of two, he began expressing knowledge of aviation that not only surpassed the ability of a typical toddler, but also that of his parents. At the age of three, he even pretended to perform pre-flight checks in front of a real aeroplane.

None of his parents had ever served in the military, nor had they ever been involved with aviation. Until James began showing interest in aeroplanes, they had never dealt with aviation in their home whatsoever. According to them, young James only watched the children's programme 'Barney and Teletubbies', which had nothing to do with aeroplanes, and they themselves never watched World War II documentaries, nor ever discussed military history.

Gradually, James began to tell various stories. He had, for example, a recurring nightmare that he was blown up by a Japanese fighter with a 'red sun' on it. James's parents were initially bewildered and then distressed when their two-year-old son began screaming at night during recurring nightmares, saying chilling phrases such as: 'Airplane crash! Plane on fire! Little man can't get out!'



The Japanese flag with the red sun.

At the age of four, young James could name the crew members who had died before him. He was four years old and was saying things that gave his parents the chills.

James's parents were unable to explain their young son's behaviour. They could not explain his vast knowledge of fighter planes, crew members or the memory of actual events that occurred during the life of James Huston, a World War II fighter pilot.

Determined to understand what was happening with their son, parents Bruce and Andrea, a highly educated modern couple, began a journey of discovery that would eventually shake them.



Young James Leininger

Bruce remained sceptical. However, ‘he started researching to disprove what young James was saying, and ended up proving it all’, said Andrea.

Young James told them that his fighter had been hit by a Japanese fighter and crashed. He also told them that he flew a Corsair fighter and that ‘these fighters used to have flat tyres all the time’. In fact, historians and pilots agree that the tyres of this fighter bounce during landing.

James also told his father the name of the aircraft carrier from which he took off (Natoma) and the name of someone who flew with his squadron (Jack Larson). After an investigation, Bruce discovered that both Natoma and Jack Larson were real names. Natoma Bay was a small aircraft carrier in the Pacific and Jack Larson was still alive and living in Arkansas (USA).

‘My mind was about to pour out of my ears.’ ‘I couldn’t believe it’, said Bruce. So he decided that he needed a more detailed investigation to be able to document his son’s story.

Young James also told him that he had been shot down on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, after a direct hit to the engine. He also signed his name as ‘James 3’.

Indeed, after further research Bruce found that the only pilot from the Natoma squadron who was killed on Iwo Jima was James Huston.

Veteran Ralph Clarbourn on Iwo Jima, whom Bruce contacted, was a rear gunner in the fighter flying right next to James Huston during the raid on the island. He verified the detail of the story and revealed that he saw James Huston’s fighter being hit, exactly in the centre of the engine.

The more Bruce and Andrea investigated the cryptic comments and fragmentary details that young James revealed, the more they inevitably reached a staggering conclusion: that young James was reliving the life of James Huston, a World War II fighter pilot who was killed in the battle of Iwo Jima—sixty years ago!

Bruce and Andrea felt so troubled by young James’s compelling evidence that they wrote a letter to Anne Barron, James Huston’s sister, who was still living in Los Gatos, California, explaining the situation. Anne Barron, then aged 87, who met and talked with young James, believes, as she said, that the young boy provided enough evidence to prove that he was James Huston in a previous life. He gave so much information that only her brother, James Huston, could have known. ‘The child was so convincing in presenting all this evidence, that there is no way in the world he could have known it’, she said. ‘He knows too many things. For some reason, this little child knows these things’, she said.



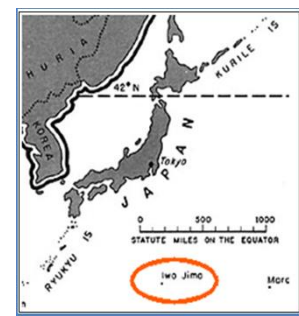
James Huston, whose tragic death during World War II young James Leininger remembers in detail, poses for a photograph in 1944, one year before his fighter was shot down.



James Huston poses with his Corsair fighter – the same type of aircraft that young James had mentioned.



Natoma Bay was the aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean from where James Huston flew for about five months before being shot down.



Iwo Jima island within the colored circle.

Bruce agreed, saying that he finally now believes that his son had a previous life in which he was James Huston. ‘He came back because he had not finished something’, she said.

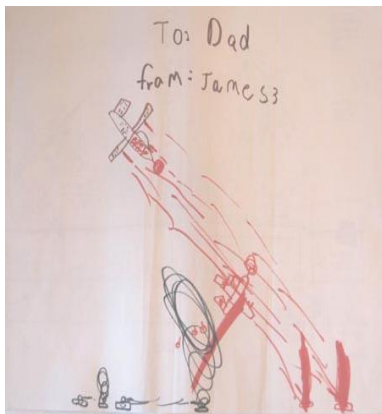
James Huston’s cousin, Bob Huston, aged 74, who was still living, also agreed. ‘For me, this is amazing’, he said. ‘The way this little child explained how (James Huston) was shot down from his fighter is remarkable’.

After careful research and discussions with other World War II veterans and surviving family members of James Huston, Bruce and Andrea were forced to confront their scepticism and re-examine their entire system of Christian faith that does not accept reincarnation.

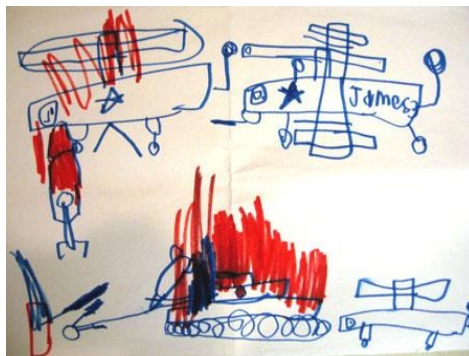
During this process, they not only managed to solve the mystery of their son’s statements, but also made revelations about James Huston’s life and his war experiences, something that ultimately brought peace and healing to his loved ones, decades after his death.

This book also features remarkable drawings by young James Leininger that capture his unwavering memories, and photographs showing the uncanny resemblance between young James and adult James Huston. Some of the drawings of the fighter aircraft are the following:

A drawing by young James of a fighter aircraft with his signature: James 3, (i.e. James Huston).



A drawing by young James of a 1945 Corsair with a five-pointed star★, a fuel tank (drop tank) underneath, wheels extended for landing, and his signature.



Young James with Jack Larson, the pilot whom young James remembered.



Young James with Anne Barron, James Huston’s sister.

A modern Corsair with a five-pointed star, a fuel tank (drop tank) underneath and wheels retracted during flight.



It is also said that whatever beliefs one might have, after reading this book, they will never be the same again. For more information, see the documentary video:

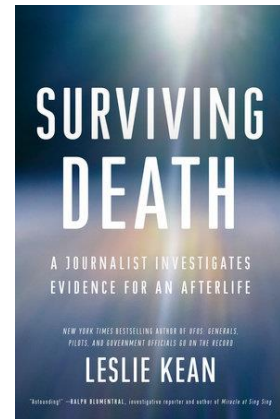
<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=james+leininger+reincarnation&mid=8646EA6447626A0C7EC48646EA6447626A0C7EC4&FORM=VIRE>

In particular, the book *Surviving Death* by renowned journalist Leslie Kean, a contributor to *The New York Times*, has caused an international sensation regarding reincarnation. Based on facts and scientific studies, *Surviving Death* includes fascinating chapters by medical doctors, psychiatrists, and PhDs from four countries, presenting stunning and wide-ranging evidence suggesting that consciousness survives death. It was turned into a six-episode television documentary by Netflix, the links of which are:

Leslie Kean - Surviving Death (2018)

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/246583/surviving-death-by-leslie-kean/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/jan/07/surviving-death-netflix-tv-series>

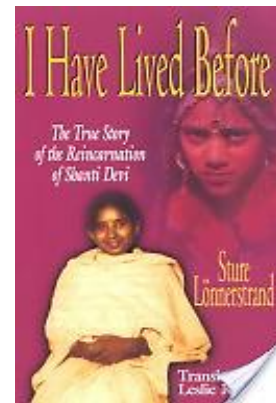


Another well-documented private, or rather state, investigation that has gained fame is the story of Shanti Devi, published under the title:

I Have Lived Before

The True Story of the Reincarnation of Shanti Devi

Sture Lönnerstrand



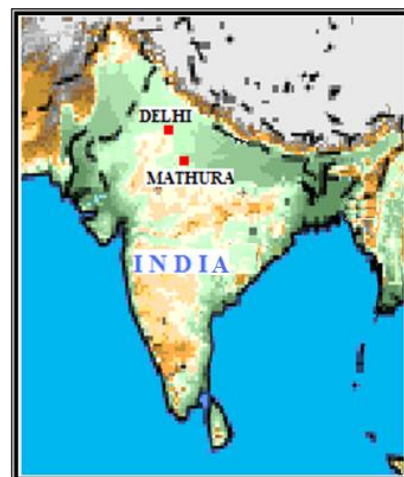
The story of Shanti Devi is unusual. She remembered her previous life from a very young age as if it were yesterday, with the minutest details, with coherence and without contradictions. She had a spontaneously conscious memory of her previous life and she insisted so much that a major investigation was conducted by an impartial state committee.

Even Mahatma Gandhi became involved and encouraged the examination of the case. The results were published and submitted to scientists for analysis. No one was able to disprove the evidence and it was declared valid.

Shanti Devi also revealed her extraordinarily vivid memories of her after-death experience, the period between her lives, and her return to a physical body. Her story is an irrefutable proof that this little girl truly lived in another life. In brief, the facts are as follows:

Shanti Devi (1926 – 1987) was born in Delhi, India. She began as a little girl in the 1930s, when she was about four years old, to claim that she remembered the details of a previous life. She told her parents that her real home was in the city of Mathura where her husband lived, approximately 145 km from her home in Delhi. She gave a detailed description of what kind of clothes she used to wear, what she used to eat, as well as a very detailed description of her former husband and the location of his cloth shop in Mathura.

Discouraged by her parents who did not believe her, she ran away from home when she was six years old, and tried to reach Mathura. Her parents managed to find her and brought her back home.



She then declared at school that she was married and had a child, but that she had died ten days after giving birth. Finally, when her teacher and the School Principal interviewed her, she used words from the Mathura dialect and revealed the name of her husband, Kedar Nath, who was a cloth merchant.

The Principal, to verify all this, travelled alone from Delhi to Mathura and found a cloth merchant named Kedar Nath whose wife, Lugdi Devi, had died nine years before, exactly ten days after giving birth to a son. Kedar Nath, upon learning about young Shanti Devi, took his son and travelled to Delhi, pretending to be the Principal's brother, but Shanti Devi immediately recognised both him and Lugdi Devi's son. Because she knew many details about Kedar Nath's and his wife's life, he soon became convinced that young Shanti Devi was indeed the reincarnation of Lugdi Devi.

When Mahatma Gandhi heard about the case, he met Shanti Devi and organised a committee of lawyers and scientists to conduct an investigation. The committee travelled with Shanti Devi to Mathura, arriving there on 15 November 1935. Shanti Devi recognised various family members, including Lugdi Devi's grandfather. She also discovered that the cloth merchant Kedar Nath had neglected to keep various promises he had made to Lugdi Devi whilst she was on her deathbed. Upon entering her old house, she knew all the rooms, etc. and even remembered where she had hidden some money.

The committee examined her in every way to make sure that she was truly who she claimed to be. The committee's report concluded that Shanti Devi was indeed the reincarnation of Lugdi Devi. Both families in Delhi and Mathura confirmed the truth of her remarkable story.

Shanti Devi told her story again at the end of the 1950s and once more in 1986 when she was interviewed by Dr. Ian Stevenson and K.S. Rawat. In this interview she also mentioned her near-death experience whilst Lugdi Devi was dying.

She was interviewed again later, and Swedish author Sture Lönnerstrand who had visited her twice, collected all the evidence and wrote the book '*I Have Lived Before*'. Lönnerstrand is a renowned author and journalist with awards in literature. He studied medicine, psychology, art history, Nordic languages, Greek, Hebrew, and particularly Sanskrit (ancient Indian) at Lund University (Sweden), whilst having received permission from Shanti Devi to publish her entire story.

2. Corresponding Birthmarks

One of the most interesting and, possibly, solid and reliable pieces of evidence for reincarnation also came from Dr. Stevenson's research.

During his travels, Dr. Stevenson observed that occasionally some of the children he investigated had marks on their bodies that corresponded exactly to the fatal wounds that they claimed their previous personality had suffered during their death.

For example, one of Dr. Stevenson's children, an eleven-year-old Turkish boy, recounted that in his previous life he was accidentally shot in the head with a hunting rifle by a neighbour.

It was impressive that this child was born with a severely deformed right ear that looked very similar to the wounds sustained by the person who died, a fact that was later confirmed by medical records and photographs that Dr. Stevenson was able to obtain from the local police and judicial authorities during his investigation.

However, this was not the only unusual case. Dr. Stevenson found countless such cases. Indeed, in some cases fingers and toes and in some even entire arms or legs that were missing in the previous life, were also missing in the present life. Some of the children also reported that their murderer removed their fingers or hands during the murder.

Dr. Stevenson found even more astonishing cases where there were multiple marks that looked very similar to the specific wounds sustained by the person in the previous life. In one case, he even found corresponding entry and exit wounds in a person that matched perfectly with those of the previous person who had died from a bullet wound to the head. Dr. Stevenson had a series of cases of birthmarks in his records which he published in the following work:



Photograph showing the right side of a Turkish boy with a reduced and deformed ear. He also had underdevelopment of the right side of his face. He said he remembered the life of a man who was shot (with a hunting rifle) at point-blank range. The wounded man was carried to hospital where he died six days later from brain injuries caused by a gunshot that penetrated the right side of the skull.
(Collection of Dr. Ian Stevenson)

Reincarnation and Biology

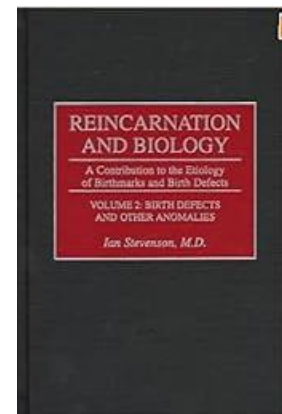
*A Contribution to the Etiology
of Birthmarks and Birth Defects*
Volume 1 & 2

In this work with an extensive collection of information, Dr. Stevenson provides strong empirical and evidential data supporting the idea that something passes from a deceased person to a person who has been born, affecting their biological or physical structure. And this is apparently mental impressions.

The presence of birthmarks in young children who claim they were a person who died in a specific location (e.g. house), where that person actually lived and for whom forensic and medical examination (photographs, police and medical documents, descriptions, etc.), show that this person died from a bullet, knife or other means, is rather difficult to dismiss as mere sophistry, absurdity or fraud. This is particularly true due to the comparatively large number of such cases. These cases provide strong evidence even for specialist scientists.

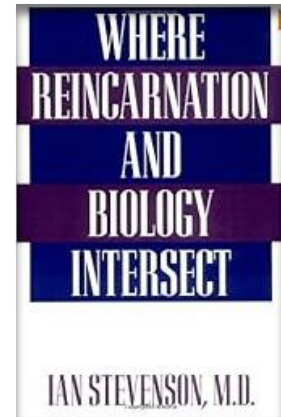
His book, which is well illustrated with photographs, focuses mainly on cases where physical marks and other bodily abnormalities match the wounds that individuals suffered in their previous life. Specific information from children's memories has been collected and compared with data about their previous personality, family, residence and manner of death. Physical marks or other bodily changes have been discovered to be related to the previous life experiences they remembered, particularly with violent death.

It is true that these cases come mainly from Asian, African or Native American cultures where such phenomena are more accepted than in Western cultures. This is natural, says Dr. Stevenson, as these cultures allow a child to speak more openly about a previous life without being distrusted or scolded for it, as might happen in Christian Western culture. Young children are very easily influenced and generally suppress anything their parent or culture does not allow them to believe. Thus, it is logical to assume that there will be more such claims in these non-Western cultures where such studies can be conducted.



To satisfy the needs of readers who wish to understand the core content of the larger work, *Reincarnation and Biology*, without delving into the technical details, Dr. Stevenson also wrote the book:

Where Reincarnation and Biology Intersect



Dr. Tucker in his book *Life Before Life*, mentioned above, also explains the birthmarks and genetic abnormalities that match those of the deceased person whom the child has identified. However, he admits that this might seem like an ‘astonishing statement’ to some readers—that memories, emotions and sometimes physical injuries can be transferred from one life to another. Nevertheless, he maintains that this is no more astonishing than many accepted ideas in today’s physics that seemed astonishing and unbelievable when initially proposed.

Modern science has compelled scientists to accept incomprehensible mechanisms of physical phenomena, and they do not hesitate to acknowledge them. Examples include the Copernican model of the universe and quantum mechanics, particularly the phenomenon of electron leaps—where an electron disappears from one orbit of an atom and reappears in another without passing through the intermediate space—an occurrence that remains scientifically inexplicable.

The Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner had already said that: ‘Just as an era was once ready to accept the Copernican theory of the universe, so is our era ready for the idea of reincarnation (the leap from one life to another) to be presented to humanity’s general consciousness.’

3. *Xenoglossy* (*Unexplained Use of a Foreign Language*)

One of the most significant, though not very frequent, pieces of evidence for reincarnation remains those of a handful of well-documented cases where people reliving a previous life suddenly start speaking a language they have not learned in this life.

Xenoglossy is generally considered a ‘paranormal’ phenomenon where an individual is able to speak or write in a language that is impossible for them to have learned through natural means.

Sometimes it can be as simple as a few foreign words or phrases or, in certain cases, as complex as an entire, fluent conversation conducted in a language that the person does not even know exists.

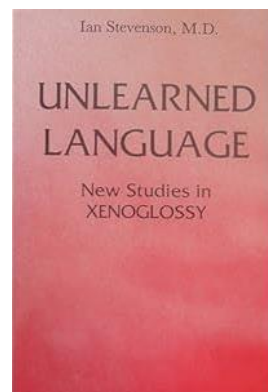
In some of the most reliable and irrefutable cases of xenoglossy that have been recorded, the person can not only speak in a foreign language but can even use an archaic version of it that has not been in regular use for centuries, e.g. ancient Egyptian, thus making it extremely unlikely to be imagination, deception, or a case of cryptomnesia.

Thus, a good case of xenoglossy remains one of the most irrefutable pieces of evidence for reincarnation, but because it is somewhat rare it has not produced enough ‘compelling’ evidence. However, the research has not stopped.

New authentic and well-documented cases were published by Dr. Stevenson, and the best book to read is:

Unlearned Language *New Studies in Xenoglossy*

In this volume, Dr. Stevenson presents detailed reports of authentic cases with tape recordings that provide evidence that the individuals concerned could speak the foreign language intelligently and were not merely repeating a few phrases of a language like parrots—which they might have learned accidentally in some other way.



The results of thorough investigations regarding the possibility that ‘the individuals in question might have learned the foreign language in their early childhood’ were negative in every case.

Each case is meticulously documented, and every effort has been made to verify the detailed evidence and determine their geographical and historical references.

One of the very well documented and proven cases is the case of Swarnlata Mishra.

The Case of Swarnlata Mishra

Swarnlata Mishra, a girl born in central India, was raised entirely among people who spoke only Hindi and followed exclusively Indian customs. Yet, she could dance traditional Bengali dances and sing songs in Bengali—a language spoken by the natives of Bengal. Her abilities were recognized by Professor P. Pal of Itachuna University College in West Bengal, who studied her case after Professor Dr. Stevenson and transcribed some of the songs.⁴

But where had Swarnlata learned the dances and songs in the Bengali language? Swarnlata Mishra claimed that she was the reincarnation of a Bengali woman named Biya Pathak and that she had learned the songs and dances in her previous life. The young girl’s memories began when she was three years old, and she provided sufficient information to enable Dr. Stevenson to locate the family of the deceased person, Biya Pathak, whom she remembered. Later she even provided more than 50 specific details that were all verified. Her story is, briefly, as follows:

Swarnlata was born in 1948 into the **Mishra** family, a family of wealthy and intellectual Indians in the city of **Chhatarpur**. When she was just three years old, she was once travelling with her father passing through the city of **Katni**, over 160 km away from her home. Suddenly she pointed to a road and asked the driver to turn there ‘to my house’. She even suggested that they could have a better cup of tea there than on the main road.

However, the driver did not take her seriously and did not turn. After a while, Swarnlata began to tell more details about her life in Katni, which her father recorded because he became interested in her story.



⁴ There are approximately 29 official languages in India, one of which is Bengali, just as there are approximately 30 languages in Europe.

She said her name was **Biya Pathak**, and that she had two sons. She gave the details of the house: it was white with black doors that had iron bars; four rooms were completely plastered, though other parts were less finished; the front floor was laid with stone tiles.

She said the house was in Zhurkutia, an area of Katni city; behind the house was a girls' school, in front was a railway line and some limestone kilns were visible from the house. She also said that the family had a car (a very rare thing in India in the '50s, and especially before Swarnlata was born). She also said that Biya Pathak died of 'pain in her throat', which was examined by doctor S. C. Bhabrat in the nearby town of Jabalpur.

Finally, they continued their journey and arrived back in Chhatarpur.

In spring 1959, when Swarnlata was 10 years old, news of her case reached Professor Sri H. N. Banerjee, an Indian paranormal phenomena researcher and colleague of Dr. Stevenson. Banerjee took the notes that her father had recorded and travelled himself to Katni to verify if Swarnlata's memories could be confirmed.

Using nothing more than the description Swarnlata had given, he found the house. It belonged to the Pathaks, a wealthy, distinguished family with large business shares who indeed had a car as Swarnlata had described. The limestone kilns were in front on the land adjacent to the house property and visible from the house; the girls' school was 80 metres behind the Pathak property, but not visible from the front. He interviewed the Pathak family and verified everything Swarnlata had said.

Biya Pathak had died in 1939 leaving behind a grieving husband, two young sons, and several younger siblings. The Pathak family had never heard of the Mishra family, who lived 160 km away; the Mishra family knew nothing about the Pathak family.

Journey to Chhatarpur

In the summer of 1959, the husband, **Sri Pandey Pathak**, one of his sons, and Biya Pathak's elder brother, even a friend of the son, travelled to Chhatarpur, to the town where Swarnlata lived, to examine Swarnlata's memories. They did not reveal to others in the town who they were or why they had come, but they took with them nine citizens from Chhatarpur to accompany them to the Mishra family home, where they arrived without warning.

Swarnlata immediately recognised her elder brother and called him 'Babu', Biya Pathak's pet name for him. Ten-year-old Swarnlata made a round looking at each person in turn. Some she recognised as people she knew from her town; some were strangers to her. Then she went to Sri Pandey, Biya Pathak's husband. Swarnlata lowered her eyes, looking shy as Indian women do in the presence of their husbands, and said his name.

Swarnlata also correctly recognised her son from her previous life, Murli, who was 13 years old when Biya Pathak died. But Murli had planned to mislead her, and for almost twenty-four hours insisted, despite her objections, that he was not Murli, but someone else. Swarnlata did not accept it.

Murli had also brought a friend with him and once again tried to mislead her by insisting that he was Naresh, Biya Pathak's other son, who was almost the same age as his friend. However, Swarnlata firmly maintained that the friend was a stranger.

Finally, Swarnlata reminded Sri Pandey that he had removed 1,200 rupees (Indian money) that Biya Pathak kept in a box. Sri Pandey admitted the truth of this private matter that only he and his wife knew about.

Journey to Katni

A few weeks later, Swarnlata's father took her to the city of Katni to visit the house and town where Biya Pathak had lived and died. As soon as they arrived, she immediately noticed and commented on the changes to the house. She asked about the low wall at the back of the house, about the veranda, and about the neem tree that used to grow in the yard; all had been removed after Biya Pathak's death. She also identified Biya Pathak's room and the room where she had died. She recognised one of Biya Pathak's brothers and correctly stated that he was her second brother. She also accurately identified her third and fourth brothers, her youngest brother's wife, and her second brother's son, calling him by his pet name, 'Baboo'. Additionally, she recognized a close family friend—even though he now wore glasses, which he had actually gotten after Biya Pathak had died—as well as his wife, calling her by her pet name, 'Bhoujai'. She also identified Biya Pathak's sister-in-law, responding to each with appropriate emotions of crying and laughing.

Furthermore, she correctly recognised a former servant, an old betelnut seller and the family's cowherd (despite her younger brother's attempt to test Swarnlata by insisting that the cowherd had died). Later, they brought Swarnlata into a room full of strangers and asked her whom she recognised. She correctly identified her husband's cousin, Biya Pathak's son-in-law's wife, and a midwife—whom she called not by her current name, but by a name she used when Biya Pathak was alive.

Biya Pathak's son, Murli, in another test, introduced Swarnlata to a person whom he said was a new friend of his, Bhola. Swarnlata correctly insisted that this person was actually Biya Pathak's second son, Naresh.

The Golden Fillings

In another test, Biya Pathak's younger brother attempted to deceive her by claiming that Biya Pathak had lost her teeth. However, Swarnlata did not fall for the trick and maintained that Biya Pathak had gold fillings in her front teeth and had not lost them—a fact that the brothers had forgotten. They had to confirm it by consulting their wives, who reminded them that Swarnlata was indeed correct.

These episodes must have been quite spectacular. Here was a ten-year-old stranger from far away—so far away, from the perspective of Indian culture—who behaved with perfect confidence like an elder sister in the house knowing personal names and family secrets, who even remembered marriage relationships, former employees, and friends, and above all whose language was remarkably similar to that of the Pathaks, namely Bengali.

It was amazing because, as it appears, her memory had not frozen at the moment of Biya Pathak's death in 1939. Furthermore, Swarnlata knew nothing of what had happened to the Pathak family since 1939, and yet the details she provided and the recognitions of people she made after about twenty years are astonishing.

In the following years, Swarnlata visited the Pathak family at regular intervals. Dr. Stevenson investigated the case in 1961, and was present at one of these visits. He observed the loving relationship between Swarnlata and the other family members. Swarnlata behaved appropriately reserved towards those older than Biya Pathak, but when alone with Biya Pathak's sons, she was relaxed and cheerful as a mother usually is—behaviour that would otherwise be completely inappropriate in India for a 10-year-old girl in the company of unrelated 30-year-old men.

Everyone accepted her as Biya Pathak reborn. As evidence of how strongly the Pathaks believed that Swarnlata was their Biya Pathak, they admitted that they had now changed their views on reincarnation after their meeting with Swarnlata (the Pathaks, due to their social position and wealth, had imitated European ideas and did not believe in reincarnation before this happened). Also Swarnlata's father, Sri Mishra, accepted the truth of Swarnlata's previous personality. Thus, several years later, when it was time for Swarnlata to marry, he consulted the Pathaks about choosing a husband for her.

A Recent Case of Xenoglossy

On 5 August 2010, a video of a Japanese housewife speaking Nepalese without ever having learnt it was broadcast on the television programme *Kiseki-taiken* 'Unbelievable' (奇迹体験アンビリバボー - Unbelievable Miraculous Experience). In this video, the housewife not only spoke but even conversed with local Nepalese people.

The housewife said that she had never learned Nepalese, had never been to Nepal and had never had Nepalese friends. The video was filmed under the supervision of Professor Dr. Masayuki Ohkado (大門正幸) of Chubu University in Japan. The show's staff flew to a village in southern Nepal and found that what the housewife was saying in Nepalese, only locals knew.

Dr. Stevenson believes that the ability to speak a particular language is a technical skill that must be learned, such as proficiency in phonetics, grammar, syntax, vocabulary practice, etc. Skills cannot be transmitted to other individuals, either through normal means or through extrasensory perception. It takes preliminary training for many years in order to acquire them.

Therefore, authentic cases in which someone speaks a language they have not formally learned in their present life—simply by opening their mouth and speaking a language they previously did not know—suggest that they had learned the language as a different personality in a past life and can now speak it fluently in the present. This is called 'responsive xenoglossy'. Thus, cases of 'responsive xenoglossy' increase the evidence concerning the survival of human personality after death.

4. Child Prodigies

Another phenomenon that could be considered as evidence of reincarnation is that of many children who have been born as child prodigies, namely those individuals who possess some remarkable gift, talent or ability far above what is natural or explicable.

A 'child prodigy' is like a very normal child who, however, has, from an early age, a seemingly innate ability to learn a specific skill or art at a very rapid rate, and has such expertise and mastery that they can perform their skill at the level of an excellently trained adult in a very demanding field of knowledge.

Classical examples of child prodigies include the German composer Mozart, who was able to create simple musical compositions at the age of four, perform concerts before European royal families at five, compose an opera at eight, give concerts across nearly all of Europe by ten, and compose entire symphonies in his teenage years. Another example is the 17th-century French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal, who described a new geometric system at just 11 years old.

Child prodigies are not born with the ability to write music or understand the complexity of geometry; they too must learn in the same way as everyone else learns. The difference is the speed at which they learn, and their ability to understand the learning material so easily.

Many geniuses have demonstrated an ability to assimilate many years' worth of learning material in a period of a few months and to have mastery of a particular branch of knowledge many years before their peers.

While modern science attributes these rare gifts to simple brain chemistry, which superficially holds true to a point, it fails to answer the question of why the brains of geniuses are assembled differently from other people, or, more precisely, in what way they are differently assembled. Could the cause be some genetic mutation or DNA combination, a one in a million chance? And if so, why does it not seem to affect their siblings in a similar way? Or perhaps it is the influence of the environment (family, relatives, friends, etc.) that plays a significant role?

Or could the cause be that these amazing people possess their remarkable ability because they have practised it before? That is, could a child who shows a particular gift for geometry, but not for music, etc., have been a mathematics professor in a previous life? Was Mozart able to accomplish his amazing musical feats because, just as he himself claimed, he was a musician, not in one, but in many previous lives?⁵ Is it possible that a lifetime of learning can, somehow, survive after death and manifest in the next life?

Anyone who has ever tried to play a musical instrument, such as piano, etc., knows that it takes years to become good at it, even with diligent practice and dedication. It takes many more years to achieve absolute dexterity, control and mastery in it, and it may actually take many more years than the duration of an entire lifetime to be recognised as a genius. Yet, Mozart was recognised as a genius at the age of ten thanks to his abilities to compose music spontaneously and perform concerts in almost all European countries, despite his naturally small finger size and young age.

Dr. Stevenson had also been interested in children with unusual abilities and talents that appeared unattributable to genetic or environmental factors, viewing these cases as strong evidence of reincarnation. As he himself said:

'It is easy to see the influences of environment as, for example, in such composers as Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, whose fathers were exceptional musicians. But what about Georg Friedrich Handel? His family had no discernible interest in music. His father even strictly discouraged it.⁶ Or take the cases of genius Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer, and Florence



Young Mozart plays the piano whilst touring Europe with his family.

⁵ Mozart (1756 – 1791) was born into a strictly Christian family and society that not only did not believe in the concept of reincarnation but also forbade it. Yet, he himself remembered and spoke about his previous lives, only that, due to the Christian prohibition, he did not leave many details in his writings.

⁶ The composer Georg Friedrich Händel (1685–1759) was born in Halle, Germany in the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Scarlatti. He is famous for his operas, oratorios and concertos. His music was well known to many composers, including Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. According to John Mainwaring, his first biographer, 'Handel from his childhood discovered such a strong propensity to music that his father, who always intended him for the study of Civil Law, had reason to be alarmed. He strictly forbade him to meddle with any musical instrument, but Handel found means to get a little clavichord privately conveyed to a room at the top of the house. To this room he would constantly sneak when the family was asleep. Thus he became a proficient performer on the clavichord, and also on the church Organ at a very early age'.

Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Both had to fight for their chosen vocations from childhood onwards.

One can find endless examples that are difficult to explain with our current theories. But if one accepts the possibility of reincarnation, then one can seriously consider the idea that these children demonstrate strong likes, dislikes, skills, even genius that is the logical result of previous experiences. I have found children with skills that appear to have been transferred from a previous life’.



George Frederic Handel

Similar stories to that of Handel, etc., where the environment (parents, relatives, friends, and so forth) had no influence on their lives, is the story, e.g., of the internationally renowned contemporary Greek musicians Dimitris Sgouros and Vangelis Papathanassiou.

Dimitris Sgouros

Dimitris Sgouros (born in Athens, 1969) is a classical music pianist. He began playing piano from a very young age, gave his first public performance when he was seven years old, and later received formal training in Athens (at age 8), in London, and in New York. There is no history of musical talent in his family. Nevertheless, highly praised for his musical talent as a prodigy, Sgouros is now one of the world’s leading concert pianists. Arthur Rubinstein observed that Sgouros presented ‘the best playing I have ever heard’.



Dimitris Sgouros

Read his amazing story on Wikipedia and see: www.sgouros-pianist.com.

Vangelis Papathanassiou

Vangelis (Evangelos Odysseas Papathanassiou, born in Volos, 1943) is a Greek composer of electronic jazz, progressive rock, classical, New Age, ambient, and symphonic music under the artistic name Vangelis.

Largely self-taught as a musician, he began composing at the age of four. He refused to take traditional piano lessons, and throughout his career had little knowledge of reading or writing musical notation. When he was six years old, his parents, who themselves had no musical knowledge, finally enrolled him in a music school in Athens. Vangelis said in an interview with *Life* magazine, when asked about his inability to read music:



Vangelis

‘When the teachers asked me to play something, I would pretend that I was reading it and play from memory. I wasn’t fooling them, but I didn’t care’.

Nevertheless, with a career spanning many years, composing and recording more than 40 albums, Vangelis is considered by some music critics as one of the greatest living electronic

Generally, fellow composers held Handel in high regard, both in his time and afterwards. Mozart is said to have remarked about him, ‘Handel understands the effects of music better than any of us. When he chooses, he strikes like a thunderbolt’, and to Beethoven (1770 – 1827) he was ‘the master of us all ... the greatest composer that ever lived. I would uncover my head and kneel before his tomb’.

music composers. He became very famous when he won the Oscar for his music in the film *Chariots of Fire* in 1982, as well as for his great successes in the films *Blade Runner* and *1492: Conquest of Paradise*. Read his amazing story and the many other awards he has won on Wikipedia.

Child prodigies are so numerous that Wikipedia provides a large catalogue with the title *List of child prodigies*. Many of these surpass even adult professionals in mastery. The fields of knowledge where they excel are multiple, and differ from child to child according to their inclinations, such as:

Sciences: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology, Medicine, Engineering.

Arts: Acting, Directing, Music, Literature, Painting, Sculpture, etc.

Theoretical Studies: Academic, Leadership, Teaching, Theology, Law, Philosophy, Linguistics, Translation.

Games: Chess, etc. and **Sports**

A Super-genius of the Planet

Among all the geniuses in the world, Kim Ung-Yong stands out in modern times, a super-genius from South Korea who was born in 1962 and is one of the most intelligent living people today. In the past, he was recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records for having the highest Intelligence Quotient (IQ) ever recorded, with a score of 210. (The score for Albert Einstein was 160 IQ and for Bill Gates, former president of Microsoft, was also 160 IQ.)



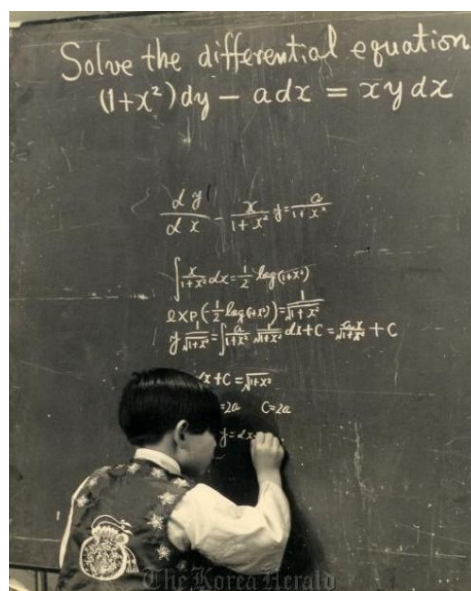
Kim Ung-Yong (right)

Shortly after his birth, Kim began to exhibit remarkable intellectual ability. He began speaking at four months, could converse fluently at six months, and was able to read Japanese, Korean, German, and English when he was two years old. Moreover, he needed only one month to learn a foreign language.

When he was two years and seven months old, he learned mathematical concepts of integral and differential calculus. From the age of 3 until 6, he became a guest physics student at Hanyang University in South Korea.

On his seventh birthday, he solved complex mathematical problems of integral and differential calculus on Japanese television. Shortly after, he demonstrated his fluency in 8 languages on Japanese television: Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, German, English, Japanese and Korean.

Even from his early childhood, he had begun writing poetry and was an amazing painter.



7-year-old Kim Ung-yong solves a differential equation on Japan's Fuji TV, 1969

At the age of seven, he was invited to America by NASA. He completed his university studies, finally obtaining his Ph.D in physics at Colorado State University, before he even turned 15.

During his university studies, he began his research work at NASA and continued this work until his return to S. Korea in 1978, where he decided to switch from physics to civil engineering and eventually received a Ph.D in this field as well from Chungbuk National University (S. Korea). He ultimately made approximately 90 publications on hydraulics in scientific journals. Since 2007, he has been a member of the additional teaching staff at Chungbuk National University.

Another example of genius children is Wendy Vo.

At the age of 8, many children barely master even one language. However, Wendy Vo speaks and reads 11 languages fluently: English, Spanish, Chinese, French, Japanese, Arabic, Russian, Cantonese, Portuguese and Vietnamese (her parents' native language).

She has also been studying music since the age of four and composing music since the age of five. She has created a CD with 14 melodies that she composed at the ages of 6 and 7, whilst she has also composed dozens more songs.



The 8-year-old genius Wendy Vo.

She also has the honour of being the youngest member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). In January 2008, she was selected by the famous American magazine forbes.com as one of the ten youngest 'role models' in America.

One can also read in Wikipedia about William Crotch (1775-1847) who at the age of 3, became a composer and the first Principal of the Royal Academy of Music; about Japanese pianist Aimi Kobayashi, born in 1995, who at the age of 3 performed in concerts and at the age of 7 with orchestras; about German-Nigerian violinist Akim Camara, born in 2000, who already at the age of 2, still wearing nappies, played violin at the Marzahn Hellersdorf School of Music, or about so many other amazing geniuses.

5. Verifiable Memories of Previous Life in Adults

Another area of evidence for reincarnation and perhaps the best known is the memories of a previous life obtained through hypnosis, that is through Past Life Regression, which present verifiable details.

Hypnotised individuals are sometimes able to remember very specific and accurate personal details of their previous lives, such as their full names, place of residence with exact street and address, occupations, names of spouses and family members, and other relevant details of a previous life, which have been verified to be correct.

Famous hypnotherapists, such as Dr. Michael Newton or Dr. Brian Weiss, have helped thousands of people recover memories from their previous lives, including the 'between-lives' period, through hypnosis.

The Case of German Lisa Bach

An excellent example is the fascinating case of Lisa Bach, a management expert and German woman who, for about five years, had the same recurring dream—wearing an ancient long gray dress that did not belong to the present time or even her grandmother’s era. Wanting to learn the meaning of her dream, she visited Ursula Demarsels, a well-known regression therapist and graduate of Dr. Michael Newton’s Organisation. She thus discovered that in a much previous life she was Hl. Elisabeth von Thüringen, a Hungarian princess who was born in 1207 in the royal castle of Sarospatak in Hungary. After the age of four, she lived in the royal castle Wartburg über Eisenach where she eventually became the wife of King Ludwig IV. von Thüringen and spent her last years in Marburg an der Lahn, where she died in 1231.

Ursula Demarsels and a television crew investigated the case. Renowned local historians and chroniclers verified Lisa Bach’s astonishing insider knowledge, as only experts would be familiar with the locations, historical events of that era, and the personal life of Princess St. Elisabeth von Thüringen—details Lisa Bach accurately recalled after undergoing regression through hypnosis. She stated that she had never encountered this information in books or on the internet, as she had never been interested in occult sciences or history. The experts who examined her case were astounded by the depth of her knowledge.

Lisa Bach’s case presents compelling evidence of reincarnation through hypnosis, given her verified insider knowledge and the numerous remarkable and historically accurate details she revealed about the life of St. Elisabeth von Thüringen. The research was conducted by Ursula Demarsels, a highly respected hypnotherapist and leading expert on historically verified reincarnations. Her work has been featured in numerous television documentaries, which have been viewed by over 10 million people

The impressive documentary about Lisa Bach can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZfEhUQTxRM> Parts 1, 2, 3 (English subtitles)

6. *Demographic⁷ studies*

The demographic studies were initiated by psychologist and hypnotherapist Dr. Helen Wambach. She herself, initially motivated by the desire to disprove reincarnation, began in the late 1960s a series of experiments examining the demographic uniformity of past life memories.

Her curiosity was sparked by the personal experiences she had with thousands of individuals who, while under hypnosis, described their past lives in various ancient times. Wanting to determine whether these accounts were more than mere imagination, she found it intriguing to compare them with anthropological, sociological and archaeological studies of the cultures mentioned by these individuals, examining whether their memories aligned with demographic patterns.

For example, if there was evidence that the ratio of genders and social classes in previous life descriptions is incompatible with what anthropologists and sociologists have already calculated, this would indicate that the individuals being examined made up stories or were carelessly daydreaming. If, however, on the other hand, there was evidence that their descriptions are compatible with known demographic data, this would lend significant gravity to the idea

⁷ Demography is the study of human populations, including the size, growth, density, and distribution of populations, as well as statistics regarding birth, gender, marriage, illness, and death.

that people continue to live through the mechanism of multiple rebirths, because the only alternative possibility that literally thousands of individuals had spontaneously imagined previous life memories that are demographically correct and accurate would be statistically and logically unfounded.

With this goal in mind, she began to regress (hypnotise) volunteers to the memory of their previous lives and then carefully recorded the specific details from each experience. Interviewing 1,088 individuals over a period of ten years, she asked each person about their gender, race, economic status and other worldly details of their daily lives from their previous lives as they remembered them in the era of 500 BC, 1st century AD, 500 AD and 1500 AD.

What Dr. Wambach found from the data is that the information obtained proved remarkably compatible with what demographers know about the ancient past. For example, as the majority of Dr. Wambach's subjects were women (in a ratio of about 3 to 1) and assuming that most people would be unlikely to imagine themselves being a member of the opposite sex, there should have been a disproportionately larger number of people remembering themselves as women rather than men in a previous life. Instead, she was greatly surprised when she found that a large number of women remembered being men in their previous lives (along with a smaller number of men who remembered being women in their previous lives). So that, when the numbers were finally calculated, they corresponded to an exact male/female ratio of 50.6%/49.4% in each time period that Wambach had recorded—a ratio that agrees precisely with biological scientific reality.

If these 'memories' were based on pure imagination, such an exact male/female ratio must have been impossible to achieve, which indicates that within her records there was indeed a large number of genuine and authentic past life memories.

Moreover, the proportions between social classes proved not only impressively valid, but also consistent with demographic studies. Dr. Wambach told her hypnotised subjects to recount whether they were poor, middle class or upper class in a previous life, assuming that a disproportionate number of subjects would choose more interesting or financially comfortable lives, which would strongly indicate that their 'memories' had been fabricated. To her great surprise however, most subjects remembered having lived ordinary, even mundane lives, often in desperate poverty. In fact, fewer than 10% (one-tenth) of subjects remembered having lived an upper-class lifestyle, and about a quarter to a third remembered being craftsmen or merchants (middle class) in their previous life—which was very compatible with sociological studies from the various historical periods she examined.

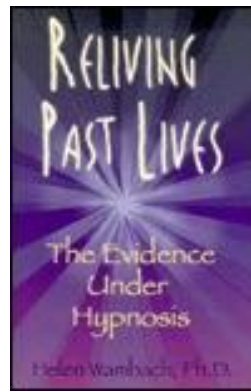
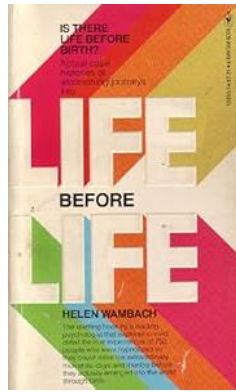
Her evidence, therefore, not only demonstrated an inexplicable compatibility with accepted scientific expectations but also debunked the widespread notion that most people remember past lives as famous or wealthy individuals (the 'Napoleon syndrome').

Other details also proved accurate. The subjects frequently described architecture, types of clothing, and even the currencies used, in a way that was compatible with what archaeologists know about the past. Even mundane details, such as the types of footwear they used, eating utensils, staple foods and the methods they used to cook their food—details that even a fraudster would be unlikely to think of—also proved compatible with known historical records.

Moreover, the racial distribution and gender ratios also proved correct, demonstrating again that either one of the most widespread and careful hoaxes was premeditated, or that perhaps people really do live more than one life. No other explanation seemed more convincing than the second one. Dr. Helen Wambach's conclusion was:

'I don't believe in reincarnation—I know it!' (Wambach, 1978).

Two of the popular books that Dr. Helen Wambach has published are:



7. Meditation (Meditation)

While hypnosis is a modern method for regressing to past lives—where individuals, under its subconscious influence, lack control over their experience—certain specialised meditation practices allow for complete self-awareness and systematic control of the experience. These practices also provide profound knowledge of the interconnection, interaction and interdependence of countless consecutive past lives.

Moreover, meditation is the most ancient but also the most powerful way for someone to have a first-hand personal experience of reincarnation.

This is achieved through concentration, which can gradually develop to the high levels of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and finally the highest 4th meditative absorption (*jhāna*). When one achieves mastery of the 4th absorption, their concentrated mind becomes purified, unblemished, freed from imperfections, pliant, wieldy, steady, and unperturbed. At this point, they can direct it toward the knowledge of recalling previous lives and remember multiple past lives—such as one birth, two births, three births, four births, five births, ten births, twenty births, thirty births, forty births, fifty births, one hundred births, one thousand births, one hundred thousand births, many cosmic cycles of the universe’s contraction, many cosmic cycles of its expansion and many cosmic cycles of the universe’s contraction and expansion: ‘Such was my name in that life, such was my clan, such was my form, such was my food, such was my experience of happiness and pain, such was the limit of my life; and dying there I was reborn elsewhere. And there too, such was my name in that life, such was my clan, such was my form, such was my food, such was my experience of happiness and pain, such was the limit of my life; and dying there I was reborn here.’ Thus, they can remember their multiple lives with all their aspects and details.



Also, they can direct their mind to the knowledge of death and rebirth of other beings. They can see beings dying and being reborn, some in miserable states and others in happy ones, some beautiful and others ugly, some fortunate and others unfortunate, and how they migrate from life to life according to their actions thus: These beings who misbehaved by body, speech and

mind, who insulted others, who held wrong views and who applied wrong views in their actions, were reborn after their death in miserable states, in wretchedness. However, these beings who behaved well by body, speech and mind, who did not insult others, who held right views and who applied right views in their actions, were reborn after their death in favourable states, in good fortune. Thus, they can see how beings transmigrate from life to life according to their bad or good actions.⁸

Another type of meditation, called insight meditation, analyses the experience of past, present and future lives in terms of cause and effect. It reveals the mental and material energies, along with the mechanisms that drive reincarnation. By fully understanding these mechanisms, one can, if desired, stop the cycle of reincarnation forever by neutralizing them.

It is possible, but not always very easy, for many people to see and, indeed, verify their previous lives. The reason is that the nature of the untrained mind is such that it does not allow most people to recall them. Their mind is hampered by five mental hindrances:

1. sensual desire,
2. anger,
3. sloth and torpor,
4. restlessness, and
5. scepticism.

Due to these mental hindrances, their insight is fettered, preventing them from recalling their previous lives, much like a mirror covered in dirt cannot reflect an image. And just as one cannot see the stars during the day, not because they do not exist in the sky, but because they are overshadowed by the sunlight, similarly one cannot remember past lives, not because they do not exist, but because their mind is overshadowed by many thoughts about daily matters, events, affairs, circumstances and problems—that is, by mental hindrances.

8. Investigation of Mediums

Another area of scientific evidence for reincarnation is mediums.

A medium is a talented individual who can communicate with beings from the afterlife and other dimensions of existence. However, as usual, narrow-minded sceptics, without any evidence, have generally tried to downplay the achievements of mediums, suggesting that all mediums are either fraudsters who exploit the naive, or are mentally deluded.

Whilst there are undoubtedly some who call themselves ‘mediums’ and are honest but less skilled, and some who deceive and lie for profit-making purposes, there are also real and genuine mediums whose achievements have astounded the world with remarkably accurate information.

The general impression that materialist critics try to convey to public opinion is that all mediums use ‘cold reading’, that is vague statements, guesses and clever observations of the client, or ‘mass hypnosis’ of the audience.

However, when one investigates the extensive literature on mediums, using the same reliability test that historians use to verify whether certain events actually occurred, there is an impressive collection of evidence showing that there have been genuine mediums in the past and

⁸ As Aristotle said, ‘We are what we repeatedly do’.

present, who have accumulated an amazing amount of objective evidence for the survival of individual personality after death.

Types of Mediums

There are many types of mediums who possess different kinds of psychic phenomena. Some of these are:

1. *Mental Mediums*

The most common type of mediums nowadays are mental mediums who communicate through inner vision or knowledge, clairaudience, automatic writing and automatic speaking.

2. *Trance Mediums*

Trance mediums are those who lose consciousness and an entirely different entity temporarily occupies the medium's body.

3. *Physical Mediums*

Physical mediums can produce raps, levitate in the air and move physical objects. Some rare physical mediums can produce independent direct voice, such as the voice of the deceased speaking to their relatives as they spoke whilst alive, independently of the medium's vocal cords.

4. *Materialisation Mediums*

Even rarer today are materialisation mediums, in whose presence real physical objects appear, and even the actual spirits of deceased humans and animals that can be recognised by their relatives or owners.

5. *Transformation Mediums*

Transformation mediums are those who emit ectoplasm from their face and thus other faces of deceased people appear, which can be recognised by their relatives, or other parts of the medium's body appear to change to resemble the communicating spirit.

Rare Gifted Mediums

It is extremely rare to encounter a very gifted medium. George Meek, an American engineer and psychic researcher, spent 16 years travelling to various countries—from 1971 to 1987—and tried to find the most gifted mediums in the world. He reported that in all these years he found only six remarkable mediums, none of whom ever advertised their psychic abilities or took money for their services. The medium's motivations are very important for maintaining their abilities and quality—as Ego and the desire to gain prestige can actually lead to a reduction in the medium's powers, so that they then come into contact with less developed spiritual beings. In 1988 Meek wrote the book 'After We Die, What Then?' where he presents evidence for the survival of consciousness.

The Most Investigated Medium of All

'I will not commit the modern stupidity
of regarding as fraud anything I cannot explain'.

C. G. Jung, Swiss Psychiatrist

One of the most spectacular and extraordinary mental mediums who ever lived was the American Leonora Piper from Boston. No one, not even the most hardened sceptic, after investigating her for a period of nearly sixty years, ever found any fraud. Piper was thoroughly investigated not by one but by six leading psychic researchers.



Leonore Piper

In America, William James, renowned Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, personally arranged spiritualist sessions for her for a year and a half. After him, Richard Hodgson, a lawyer and psychic researcher, the world's greatest and most notorious expert in exposing myths and frauds, took over. And finally, James Hyslop, Professor of Logic and Ethics at Columbia University, took control of the research. All of them together brought hundreds of participants with false names (so that they could not be identified by Mrs. Piper), hired detectives to watch her and intercepted her letters to see if she had secret informants.

Specific details

Sceptics maintain that mediums use guesswork and give vague statements that are subsequently confirmed by participants, thanks to a technique called 'cold reading'.

From the many thousands of examples given in the official reports about Mrs. Leonore Piper, only one example can be given here, for brevity, to show how wrong the sceptics are. This concerns Reverend S.W. Sutton and his wife who participated in a spiritualist gathering in 1893. Both of them were, according to Richard Hodgson's report, particularly intelligent people. They participated in the spiritualist gathering with Mrs. Piper to see if they could communicate with their young girl who had recently died. Hodgson brought a stenographer, so that what was stated by Mrs. Piper about the Suttons' young girl, was recorded and is now in the archives of the Society for Psychical Research (SPR). See Hodgson's report regarding Mrs. Piper, Proceedings of the SPR 1898:284-582.⁹

Mrs. Piper was able to establish contact between the Suttons and their beloved young girl. The information left absolutely no doubt that the young girl was truly communicating from the afterlife with her mother and father.

The young girl confirmed to her parents that she used to bite buttons. She recognised her uncle Frank and a friend who had died from a brain tumour. She mentioned her brother by his pet name. She mentioned the pain in her throat and the paralysis of her tongue before her death. She also mentioned her Dinah doll, her sister Maggie and her toy horse. She also sang two songs that she used to sing. The Suttons had no doubt that they had made contact with their young girl and were particularly happy when she reassured them: 'I am happy ... don't cry for me anymore'.

Initially, there was great criticism and scepticism about Mrs. Piper as a medium. But when the information and messages from the afterlife were so consistently accurate over many years, eventually even the second most sceptical member of the SPR, Richard Hodgson, officially

⁹ The Society for Psychical Research (SPR) was founded in 1882 and is a non-profit organisation in England. Its purpose is to understand 'the facts and abilities usually described as psychic or paranormal phenomena by promoting and supporting significant research in this field' and to 'examine claims of paranormal phenomena in a scientific and unbiased way.' Thus, 'it approaches the various problems without any kind of prejudice or predisposition and with the same spirit of precise and unbiased investigation that has allowed science to solve so many problems, which were once no less obscure nor less intensely debatable.' (Proceedings of the SPR)

admitted that Mrs. Piper as a medium was genuine, and acknowledged that the information came from intelligent beings in the afterlife.

The SPR leadership expected Richard Hodgson to discredit Mrs. Piper, as he had attempted to discredit all established mediums, including the occultist Madame Blavatsky and Eusapia Palladino. The SPR had specifically chosen him and sent him to investigate Mrs. Piper from the very early stages. Before going to investigate her, he had stated that he could show how she was able to use tricks so successfully, or, in his own words, how Mrs. Piper obtained information, ‘in advance through ordinary means, such as investigations by assistants and informants’.

An Incredible Test

However, when one of Hodgson’s friends, George Pellew, suddenly died at the age of 32, he began speaking through Mrs. Piper while she was in a trance after his death. Hodgson was now in the exceptionally unique position to ask his deceased friend hundreds of questions about their relationship. For over five years Mrs. Piper—or more accurately George Pellew speaking through her—answered his many questions correctly.

Over several months Hodgson brought to Mrs. Piper more than 150 participants to the spiritualist sessions. Only thirty of them knew his friend George Pellew whilst he was alive—the others had never met him. George Pellew was able, from the 150 participants, to correctly recognise all thirty participants whom he knew. Most of them sat talking and reminiscing with George Pellew, who was speaking through Mrs. Piper, as if he were there himself in his material body.

These meetings were so impressive that Richard Hodgson wrote in his report explaining in detail why he was wrong in his previous reports and that he had now irrevocably accepted the existence of the afterlife and his communication with the deceased.

Richard Hodgson’s harsh scepticism had led him to commit some of the most horrific blunders in psychic history by defaming renowned mediums. But these ended with Mrs. Piper. He verified the existence of the afterlife, saying:

‘I cannot at present say that I have any doubt but that the chief ‘communicators’ to whom I have referred in the preceding pages are veritably the personalities that they claim to be, that they have survived the change we call death, and that they have directly communicated with us whom we call living, through Mrs. Piper, while she was in trance.’ (SPR Proceedings, Vol. 13, 1898, H.10)

This was completely impressive. He was someone whose premature immaturity, relative incompetence and inexperience had contributed to the destruction of the credibility of two international mediums (Madame Blavatsky and Eusapia Palladino), whom he had not taken the time to fully investigate. However, when he investigated Mrs. Piper, he admitted the afterlife, because after so many years, the consistent and accurate evidence could not possibly be refuted.

Similarly, James Hyslop, Professor of Logic and Ethics at Columbia University, a staunch sceptic who had spent many years spreading anti-spiritualist propaganda, eventually admitted the genuineness of Mrs. Piper as a medium. He even founded the American Society for Psychological Research and wrote seven books about the evidence for after-death survival:

Borderland of Psychical Research, 1906
Enigmas of Psychical Research, 1906
Psychical Research and the Resurrection, 1908
Psychical Research and Survival, 1913
Life After Death, 1918 and
Contact with the Other World, 1919

In *Life After Death* (1918) he wrote:

‘I regard the existence of spirits as scientifically proven and I no longer believe that sceptics have any right to speak on the subject. Anyone who does not accept the existence of spirits and the related evidence is either ignorant or morally cowardly. I pay him little attention and no longer intend to discuss with him, assuming that he supposedly knows something about this subject’.

A Wonderful Materialisation Medium

Helen Duncan, shown in the photograph, was a remarkable materialisation medium from Scotland and one of the most significant women in psychic history. On one occasion, a group of magicians led by William Goldston—founder of the ‘Magicians’ Club’—conducted an experimental séance with her. During the séance, Goldston and his colleagues were astounded when their deceased friend, the magician ‘The Great Lafayette, materialised through Helen Duncan and spoke to them in his own voice. Goldston wrote a report about the event in *The Psychic News* magazine in which he confirmed that the medium Helen Duncan was genuine and that no magician could in any way reproduce the phenomena that he and his fellow magicians had experienced with Helen Duncan.



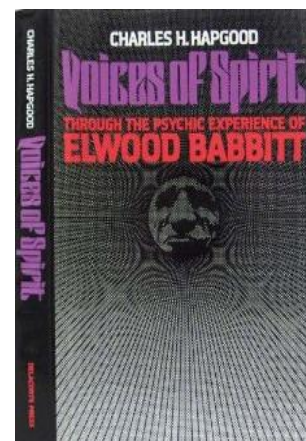
Helen Duncan

An Electroencephalogram (EEG) Experiment on Medium Elwood Babbitt

American professor Charles H. Hapgood reports in his excellent book *Voices of Spirit* (1975) that he conducted an electroencephalogram (EEG) on medium Elwood Babbitt when he was not under hypnosis, followed by other EEGs at the moment when Babbitt’s mind was supposedly possessed and controlled by three different spirits from the afterlife, thus wanting to examine if the first EEG and the others would be different.

The EEGs of each of the three spirits were found to be completely different from each other, and also different from Babbitt’s EEG outside of hypnosis. An EEG specialist, Dr. Bridge, who analysed all the EEGs, observed that the EEGs were characteristic of individuals of different ages and could not belong to one person.

Hapgood reproduces the EEG diagrams in his book (1975: 224-227) where he describes the impressive experiment and provides many other details about related studies.



The seven areas of scientific research mentioned above as evidence for reincarnation are just a few among a vast number of experiments and studies that collectively provide significant evidence. More relevant information can be found in Victor J. Zammit's book *A Lawyer Presents the Case for the Afterlife*.

Below are some recent books by scientists, psychologists, journalists etc. with arguments in favour of life after death.

Greyson, Bruce (2021): *A Doctor Explores What Near-Death Experiences Reveal About Life and Beyond (afterlife)*

<https://www.amazon.com/After-Doctor-Explores-Near-Death-Experiences/dp/1250263034>

Fontana, David (2005): *Is There An Afterlife? A Comprehensive Overview of the Evidence*

<https://www.amazon.com/There-Afterlife-Comprehensive-Overview-Evidence/dp/1903816904>

Fontana, David (2009): *Life Beyond Death – What Should We Expect*

<https://www.amazon.com/Life-Beyond-Death-Should-Expect/dp/1906787085>

Eben, Alexander (2012): *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife*

<https://www.amazon.com/Proof-Heaven-Neurosurgeons-Journey-Afterlife-ebook/dp/B008AK8FHM>

Schwartz, Gary(2002): *The Afterlife Experiments – Breakthrough Scientific Evidence of Life After Death*

<https://www.amazon.com/Afterlife-Experiments-Breakthrough-Scientific-Evidence/dp/0743436598>

Newton, Michael (2009): *Memories of the Afterlife – Life Between Lives –Stories of Personal Transformation*

<https://www.amazon.com/Memories-Afterlife-Between-Personal-Transformation/dp/0738715271>



CONCLUSION

What can be said as a conclusion is that:

*'There are more things in the world
than we dream of,
whatever philosophy we may have'.*